

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE

JUNE 10, 2008

Shelter Partnership, Inc., which conducts research and policy analysis on behalf of our region's homeless population, on March 20, 2008, released the *Homeless Older Adults Strategic Plan*. This groundbreaking *Plan* was developed over an 18-month period and involved numerous stakeholders, including County staff from various departments, as well as staff from the CEO's office. The *Plan* includes considerable data and analysis of the needs of adults 62 years of age and older who are homeless in our County.

Among the findings are:

- There are between 3,000 and 4,000 homeless older adults in Los Angeles County and the population will increase significantly, in part because of the aging of the baby boomer generation. Two-thirds are men and one-third are women.
- Unlike younger single homeless populations, almost two-thirds of homeless older adults have an income from a federal source, either SSI Disability, Social

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MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE
JUNE 10, 2008
PAGE 2

Security, or both. However, their incomes are inadequate to access and maintain market rate housing. Simultaneously, there are many barriers that preclude them from securing subsidized senior housing, including applications procedures that rely on mailing addresses and screening processes that include home visits.

- Sixty-two percent of homeless older adults report a disability of some sort, with 89% of those disabilities being physical in nature.
- At least one-third and perhaps as many as one-half are chronically homeless.
- Twenty-eight percent of homeless older adults report prior military service, which is twice as high as the general homeless population in Los Angeles County.

The *Homeless Older Adults Strategic Plan* makes recommendations on how to solve homelessness for older adults. The majority of the recommendations address the need for this population to be able to secure permanent supportive affordable housing, such as has been accomplished in such cities as Boston, New York, San Diego, San Francisco and Seattle, which report cost savings in systems such as public health attributable to permanently housing chronically homeless individuals. Many of the recommendations have little or no associated County cost (i.e. networking between social service agencies and senior housing developers, set-asides in affordable housing developments and homeless Section 8 Voucher set-asides).

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Chief Executive Officer, in conjunction with the Directors of the

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE
JUNE 10, 2008
PAGE 3

Department of Community and Senior Services, Community Development Commission, Department of Mental Health, the Public Health Department and the Department of Public Social Services to report back within 60 days on:

1. The feasibility of implementing the recommendations of the *Homeless Older Adults Strategic Plan*;
2. Possible funding sources for recommendations that require County funding to implement should the plan implementation proves feasible;
3. Where appropriate, any technical changes to program and procurement policies to facilitate implementation of the *Plan* recommendations; and
4. Delineate any opportunities for collaboration and cooperation among County departments to support implementation of the *Plan* recommendations.

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